Shortage of hotels for tourists in Delhi

† 2379. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of hotels for lodging tourists in Delhi, the officials of her Ministry are accommodating them in their own residential places; and

(b) if so, whether her Ministry has made any arrangements to find out the facts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No such report has come to the notice of the Department.

Conference on drinking water problem

2380. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the two day State Ministers' Conference held in New Delhion January 31 and February 1,2006, the Prime Minister stressed the need for squarely resolving the drinking water problem uder a Five Point Programme by 2009;

(b) if so, the details of the programme; and

(c) the present status of rural and urban population and habitations still devoid of drinking water facility in different States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) A Conference of State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water supply and sanitation was held on 31st January-1st February 2006 in New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and it was attended by State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water and sanitation and officers of Central and State Governments. A brief report on the conference as furnished by Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply is given as Statement *(See* below).

(c) As per Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water supply), as on 31st January, 2006, there are 3891 number of not-covered habitations and 43,585 partially covered habitations under Rural WatefSupply Programme in the country. As per Ministry of Urban Development, about 89% of urban population has been provided with water supply.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Brief report on the conference of State Ministers in-chance of rural drinking water supply and sanitation held on 31st January-1st February 2006

A Conference of State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water supply and sanitation was held on 31st January-1st February 2006 in New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and it was attended by State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water and sanitation and officers of Central and State Governments.

In his speech the Hon'ble Prime Minister said that Bharat Nirman has made availability of safe water supply to every single habitation a key component of the agenda to be delivered in the next four years. He also drew attention to five aspects that must be addressed on the priority basis. Firstly, we must eliminate the backlog and provide safe water to all remaining habitations which are either uncovered or have slipped back from full coverage. Secondly, we must address problems of water quality. Thirdly, we should entrust the responsibility of water supply management to local institutions and build their capacity in the management of water supply. Fourthly, we must improve comprehensive management of water supply by strengthening management of environment. And lastly, we must mobilize communities to spread awareness of the linkage between good health and safe water supply.

The issues discussed during the Conference were- review of the progress made in the current year under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), increasing the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in decentralized service delivery and system sustainability, strategy for effective implementation of the drinking water component of Bharat Nirman, promotion of source strengthening measures, integrated approach to tackling water quality problems, water quality monitoring and surveillance and policy and implementation issues pertaining to TSC including creation of awareness and social mobilization.

The Following resolutions were adopted during the Conference:

* Work towards achieving the goals set under Bharat Nirman, i.e, provision of at least 40 litres per capita per day (1pcd) of safe drinking water to all habitations, in a time-bound manner, in the next four years;

* Cover the remaning 55,067 uncovered habitations;
* Tackle water quality affected habitations to provide safe drinking water in a sustainable manner, with priority to tackling problems of arsenic, fluoride and salinity;
* Augment water suply in all habitations that have slipped back from full coverage;
* To imporve the governance of delivery structure for rural water supply and sanitation;
* To increasingly entrust the responsibility of rural water supply management to local institutions and build their capacity in this regard.
* Provide safe drinking water to all the schools of the country by end of 2007;
* Provide sanitary Toilet facilities to all the schools of the country by the end of March 2007;
* Promote Community/group roof-top rain water harvesting, especially in Government buildings, institutional buildings schools, industrial units etc. in rural areas, and integrated water recharge to augment the water supply for drinking purposes;
* Move towards enactment of Ground Water Regulations and control and development legislation, which could include provision for recharging of ground water;
* Involve Gram Panchayats/ Village Water and Sanitation Committees in regular water quality monitoring and surveillance;
* To report all achievement against the targets set on the web-based monitoring system on-line;
* Give more importance to Total Sanitation Campaign to achieve the goal of full sanitation by 2012, with full backing for the campaign at the highest political and official level in the State;
* Make at least one district in each State fully open defecation-free by end of 2006;
* Put Rural India in a place of pride amongst the Nations of the World.

In addition, the following major recommendations were made in the Conference:

(1) Total Sanitation Campaign:

* Increase in unit cost of household and anganwadi toilets and inclusion of solid and liquid waste management in the project.
* Removing community contribution from construction of school and anganwadi toilets;
* A national and State level mass media campaign should be lauched on Television and Radio for creation of awareness.
* Population slabs for awarding Nirmal Gram Puraskar should be increased.

(2) Implementation of ARWSP in the Eleventh Plan for institutionalization of community participation:

* Institutionalization of community participation and involvement of Gram Panchayats in a phased manner and only one rural water supply scheme from the eleventh Plan.
* Community contribution of at least 10% of the estimated capital cost of the scheme to be an integral part of all rural drinking water supply schemes. It may be only 2.5% for SC/ST habitations. The extent of community contribution could be paid in cash, labour, land or material or a combination of these. The minimum contribution per household to be decided by the State. In difficult single village schemes, quality affected habitations, piped water supply from distant sources and multi-village schemes, the State may decide on quantum of community contribution for common facilties.
* Central and State Governments will bear the balance capital cost of approved schemes (after deducting the community contribution). In case of difficult single village schemes and multi-village schemes, Government agency will bring water from the source to the entry point of the village. The capital cost of schemes upto the entry point of habitation will be shared by Central and State Government. The distribution network of water supply inside the village/habitation will be constructed with involvement of the Gram Panchayat/V/illage Water and Sanitation Committees, with community contribution and subsequent Operation & Maintenance. They will be assisted by PHED in the process.

(3) Coverage and its norms, technology options, source and system sustainability, water quality monitoring and surveillance:

* The distance of water source should be 0.5 kilometre instead of 1.6 kilometre and 30 metres elevation instead of 100 metres in hilly areas to lessen the drudgery of carrying water from distant source.

* In hilly areas, the population criteria should be relaxed to cover habitations with 50 persons or more or more than 10 households to all.

* There is need for earmarking funds for rooftop/catchment based rainwater harvesting and this water may be treated as coverage as distinguished from recharging of ground water.

* Women and youth of rural areas be trained to operate and maintain water supply systems. Manuals/guidelines be developed for this purpose.

* Distribution systems be improved for minimizing the leakages. States should come up with means to prevent leakages in the distribution systems to make it economical with cost recovery.

* Good production centres/sanitary marts/self-help groups, etc. should be utilized for supply of spare parts, training of local rural youth and women as mechanics for Operation & Maintenance of water sources and also involved in water quality monitoring and maintenance.

(4) Some of the States have requested for the funding pattern of ARWSP between Centre and State to be in the ratio of 75:25 and North Eastern States have requested for this ratio to be 90:10 for consideration of the Government.

World Bank Report on India's water supply and sanitation

2381. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank had released a draft report on "India's Water Supply and Sanitation," recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Governments reaction thereto?